Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for ~~mixing, drying and~~ coating pulverulent, granular or shaped loose material in a fludized bed, which comprises

a container (10) for accommodating the loose material, with a bowl-like depression (17) being provided in a lower region (13) of the container ~~(10)~~,

a central tube (27) for introducing a gas, with the central tube entering the container in an upper region (12) of the container ~~(10),~~ and extending essentially axially downward in the container ~~(10)~~ and opening into the depression ~~(17)~~, wherein at least a portion of the outer wall of the central tube includes an adhesion-reducing coating (38),

~~an essentially~~ a substantially annular deflection shield (29) which is fixed to the central tube ~~(27)~~ in the upper region ~~(12)~~ of the container ~~(10)~~,

a guide ring (31) which is located in the lower region ~~(13)~~ of the container ~~(10)~~ and surrounds the central tube ~~(27) essentially~~ concentrically at a distance (L) for part of its length so that a first opening (34) is formed between the wall of the container ~~(10)~~ at the upper edge (22) of the depression and the lower end (33) of the guide ring ~~(31)~~ and a second opening (36) is formed between the deflection shield ~~(29)~~ and the upper edge (35) of the guide ring ~~(31), and~~

~~Means(21) for introducing a fluid into the container (10), wherein the outer wall of the central tube (27) is at least partly provided with an adhesion-reducing coating (38).~~

2. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outer wall of the central tube ~~(27)~~ is provided with the adhesion-reducing coating ~~(38)~~ below the deflection shield ~~(29)~~.

3. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2,~~ wherein the guide ring ~~(31)~~ is fixed to the central tube ~~(27)~~ by ~~means of~~ struts (32) which are provided with the adhesion-reducing coating ~~(38)~~.

4. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the underside of the deflection shield, ~~(29) and/or~~ the inside wall of the guide ring ~~(31)~~ or both are provided with the adhesion-reducing coating ~~(38)~~.

5. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the adhesion-reducing coating ~~(38)~~ is a polymer of a fluorinated, ~~preferably perfluorinated,~~ ethylenically unsaturated hydrocarbon.

6. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the adhesion-reducing coating ~~(38)~~ is a perfluorinated fluoropolymer ~~such as polytetrafluoroethylene.~~

7. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein the distance (L) between the wall of the central tube ~~(27)~~ and the wall of the guide ring ~~(27)~~ is greater than the open height (H3) of the first opening (34).

8. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the distance (L) between the wall of the central tube ~~(27)~~ and the wall of the guide ring ~~(31)~~ is less than 2/3 of the diameter (D_A)~~, preferably less than half the diameter (D_A),~~ of the deflection shield ~~(29)~~.

9. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 7 ~~or 8,~~ wherein the distance (L) is determined by the dimension of the loose material, wherein the larger the loose material the greater the distance (L) ~~(26) having larger dimensions is used~~.

10. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 9,~~ claim 1 wherein the height (H2) of the guide ring ~~(31)~~ is in the range from one third to two thirds of the distance (H) between the upper edge (22) of the depression ~~(17)~~ and the central axis (37) of the container.

11. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 10,~~ claim 1, wherein the diameter of the guide ring ~~(31)~~ corresponds essentially to half the diameter of the container.

12. (currently amended) A method of producing supported catalysts, which comprises fluidizing the catalyst supports in an apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims 1-11~~ claim 1 and coating them by spraying them with a catalyst-containing suspension.

13. (new) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the distance (L) between the wall of the central tube and the wall of the guide ring is greater than the open height (H3) of the first opening (34).

14. (new) An apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the distance (L) between the wall of the central tube and the wall of the guide ring is less than 2/3 of the diameter (D_A) of the deflection shield.

15. (new) An apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the height (H2) of the guide ring is in the range from one third to two thirds of the distance (H) between the upper edge (22) of the depression and the central axis (37) of the container.

16. (new) An apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the height (H2) of the guide ring is in the range from one third to two thirds of the distance (H) between the upper edge (22) of the depression and the central axis (37) of the container.

17. (new) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a means for introducing a fluid into the container.

18. (new) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 further comprising fluid inputs proximate to the depression for introducing a fluid into the container.

19. (new) A supported metal oxide catalyst prepared by a process comprising:

fluidizing catalyst support in a fluidized bed apparatus while adding a suspension of TiO_2, V_2O_5 and Sb_2O_3 particles to the apparatus thereby treating the catalyst support with the suspension of particles, wherein the apparatus comprises:

a container (10) with a bowl-like depression (17) being provided in a lower region (13) of the container,

a central tube (27) for introducing a gas, the central tube extending essentially axially downward in the container and opening into the depression,

a substantially annular deflection shield (29) which is fixed to the central tube in the upper region of the container,

a guide ring (31) which is located in the lower region of the container and surrounds the central tube concentrically at a distance (L) for part of its length so that a first opening (34) is formed between the wall of the container at the upper edge (22) of the depression and the lower end (33) of the guide ring and a second opening (36) is formed between the deflection shield and the upper edge (35) of the guide ring, wherein the outer wall of the central tube is at least partly provided with an adhesion-reducing coating; and

heating the treated catalyst support to provide the supported metal oxide catalyst with a catalyst coat thickness of 70 μm to 200 μm.